Mat-Su Monitor

APRIL 2016 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 6

2016 Graduates PAGE 2

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Students Create PAGE 15

Hard Work Pays Off

This is especially true for the 5th grade students from Big Lake Elementary. The students participated in a 6-lesson curriculum designed for 5th and 6th grade students called Kids2College.

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PI DAY CELEBRATION!

2nd Annual Pi-Day Fund Raiser put on by Mat-Su College Math Department

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TIE FOR PRESIDENT!

At the close of the voting polls on Wednesday, April 13th, a tie was declared for office of President.

Corrina Atkins

Jack Rogers II

The Student Government Council will decide by vote at their next SGC meeting on April 20th. Executive Officers, Senators and Representatives will be casting votes.

During the yearly spring election bar-b-que students had the opportunity to cast votes for their favorite candidate. There was a total of 126 votes cast for president.

Congratulations to the new Vice-President, Richard Hamilton. Hannah Grothe will remain as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2016-17 term.

Sharpe's Movie Guide: Sharpe's 10 Essential Movies

By Michelle Sharpe

Greetings movie *lovers! Over the past few months, I have been getting asked what movies I would recommend, or which movies are my favorites. So here is a list of some of the movies from all time that I would recommend to everyone.*

10. A League of Their Own (PG): "THERE'S NO CRYING IN BASEBALL!" Say what you want about the so called "golden age" of cinema, the 90's had some of the best movies ever and this movie is proof of that. Before you write this movie off as a "chick flick", let me just say that there is no such thing and that this might just be Tom Hanks' best role ever. EVER! Forest Gump? NO! Coach Jimmy!

Continued on page 5

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 18: Open registration begins.

April 22: PowerPoint Mobile app workshop, 12-1 in FSM 104.

April 26-May 2: Campus Cache Book Buyback. 9-6 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 9-3 Friday and Monday.

May 2: Semester ends.

May 4: Grades available on UAOnline.

May 6: Graduation. Glenn Massay Theater.

May 16: Summer courses begin (10-week and first 5-week sessions).

June 22: Second 5-week session begins.

July 30: End of summer classes.

August 24: New Student Orientation.

LOVE TO READ?

THEN JOIN THE FIRE READING

THIS MONTH'S SELECTIONS ARE:

The Given Day *by Dennis Lehane*
The Rosie Project *by Graeme Simsion*
The Rosie Effect *by Graeme Simsion*

Please ask a library staff member if you would like more information about joining or call us at 745-9740.

Mat-Su College

CONGRATULATIONS MAT-SU COLLEGE GRADUATES!

2016

OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

CISCO Certified Network Associate
Randy Makoto George

Office Foundations
Sharelle N Eakins
Tracy Marie Hill
Nicholas Odell Phillips

Office Foundations & Office Support
Dianne Lynn Wise
Cynthia L Youmans

Refrigeration and Heating Technology
Charles Robert Conrad

Sustainable Energy
Erin Morgan Carter
Amber Rose Larson
Cheryl Lynne Page
Cory Louis Peterson
Jack Rogers II

Veterinary Assisting
Shana Elyse Eastgate
Emily Anne Lucia
William Avery Morgan

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Accounting
Alicia Mercedes Beaudoin
Sierra Grace Larson
Lillian Inez Lobato
Ziomara Lyn Lounsbery
Heather Ruth Ramirez-Nunn
Kaylen A. Treffers
Mikhail Mykhalov Tereshchenko
Kassandra D Vernoy
Mitzy Kay Williamson
Gyongyi Wilson

Computer Information and Office Systems
Emma D Frisby
Lillian Inez Lobato
Ustina Martusheff
Teresa L Moore

Computer Systems Technology
Andrew William Chastain
Jared M Dailey
Jesse Ryan Drover
Robert L Focht
John Cameron Miles
Glenn David Zisa

General Business
Stasha Chantelle Brower
Deanna Denay Earle
Lee E Falwell
Matthew Kent Lolley
Jayson L McDonald
Aaron Wayne Richardson
Jack Rogers II
Emma S. Twitchell
Kassandra D Vernoy
Jerome Alexander Page

Human Services
Sayoko N Benjamin
Autumn Hedgepeth
Nataliya Petrovna Kudryn
Kiana Skye Marinelli
Carrie Marie McLeod
Sarah Ilene Nicholson
Jenita Lilla Olson
Alexandra Michelle Ross
Jessica Ann Salyer
Karl Robert Soderstrom
Krista Maria Squire

Paramedical Technology
William Edward Bocast
Brandi B Gass
Oleg Olegovich Gerasimyuk
George Vincent Grigas
Jackie M Henry
Lisa Ann Ingulli
Justin Robert Ortolano
James Andrew Reinhart
Darin Raymond Swain
Christopher A Wilkins

Refrigeration and Heating Technology
Everett Richard Drummond IV
Donald Michael Orin Graham
Hunter Roland Smith

Small Business Administration
Kimberly D. Tanksley

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

General Program
Shanara Rose Acker
Deborah Ann Alexander
Kimberly Lynn Barfield-Stevens
Caleb James Berry
Gia Beth Bolton
VeLaura Amelia Jean Bradshaw
Kymberlie Allison Bradshaw
Dalton James Buness
James Thomas Lee Burkham
Stephanie LeeAnn Button
Dakota Jewel Carlyle
Alaura Christine Clark
Wade Harlan Crawford
Talea Fiscus
Travis Jay Friesen
Athena Nicole Gianopoulos
Scott Maynard Green
Chantel Elizabeth Grubb
Tyler Allen Hall
Sarah Laine Hansen

Mat-Su College

CONGRATULATIONS MAT-SU COLLEGE GRADUATES!

2016

Justin Robert Hansen
Cristy Laurel Harmon
Justin Allen Hartle
Chantell Lee Helm
Joshua L Hunsaker
Vicky J Jackson
Kristofer Benjamin Kusche
Tiffany Ashley Lester
Alexandra Edith Wittenber Lewis
Misty Rae Licata
Katherine Mae Linkenhoker
Diana Joann Lucero
Nicole Lundstrom
Mallory Elizabeth Manier
Sarah Rose Marcum
Patrick Richard Marshall
Brenda Jo Mathis
Stefanie Danielle Matthew
Melody Hope McIlroy
Meghan Rae McNiven
Morgan Rae McVeigh
Linda Yon Miller
Ashley Renee Morgan
Cassy Janette Newman
Colton James Newman
Catherine Marilyn Olson
Malayna Sharlotte Perez
Cory Louis Peterson
Nicholas Odell Phillips
Charity Raine Pingayak
William David Price
Nadia Elise Rausa
Samuel Rollin Reed
Jordann Marie Reynolds
Reagan McGuyer Rice
Shannon Rodgers
Patricia Elizabeth Rose
Alexandra Michelle Ross
Heather Lynn Shomler
Kira Rianne Singleton
Charlene Sue Snyder
Forest Hamilton Sparks
Brian Eugene Stanley
Sydney Lauren Jackie Storms
Haley K Stout
Kourtney Nicole Straight
Emily Alison Straub
Crystal Aurora Stryken
Eric David Sullivan
Shelly Thao
Dominique M Thigpen
Ashley Mariah Wallen
Rachel K Whitesell
Xontippie Sherry Whittington
Darlene Oksoktaruk Wilson
Katrina Ann Wold

OTHER UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA GRADUATES PARTICIPATING IN OUR MSC COMMENCEMENT

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE, UAA

Architectural and Engineering Technology
Nathan L Syvertson

Early Childhood Education
Marci Hawkins

Logistics Operations
Samantha Terry

BACHELOR OF ARTS, UAA

Art
Emily A. Gelino-Bequette
Margaret A. Koeneman

Education
Melissa G. Mallett

History
Aurora L. Rogers

BACHELOR OF ARTS, UAF

Child Development & Family Studies
Robin S. Morehouse

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, UAA

Finance
David A. Karvetski

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, UAS

Business Administration
Christine Renee Shartzer
Heather Jackson

BACHELOR OF HUMAN SERVICES, UAA

Human Services
Amy B. Lalor

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Work
Will Benjamin

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April 2016

Kids2College is a partnership between the Alaska Commission and Postsecondary Education and UA College Savings Plan.

Through this curriculum students learned about financial aid, how to apply to college, and how to prepare for college. One of their lessons included a career panel, were they had the opportunity to interact with working professionals from the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage.

The program culminated with a visit to Mat-Su College on Friday, April 8th for a super packed mini-college day. The students learned about water color techniques, African dance moves and drumming, CPA careers, clean energy, horticulture, how to make your own comic strip, Spanish fairy tales, public radio, math puzzles, and CPR just to name a few.

This event would not have been possible without the participation of our instructors, community volunteers, staff, and students who came together to create meaningful memories for the 5th graders from Big Lake Elementary.

Summer Art Academy

For students entering 9-12th grade

In this Summer Art Academy, Mr. Barton will engage high school students in making, designing, exploring, playing, and sharing art.

Day One: Working with paper-clay students will design, build, decorate, and fire a dragon(s) sculpture.
Day Two: Students will be presented with exercises to engage in the creative use of digital photo apps.
Day Three: Students will create one intaglio plexi plate matrix and print an artist's proof using a printer's press.
Day Four: Using found object items, students will devise and construct a moving sound sculpture.
Day Five: The remaining dragons will be glazed and fired in the kiln.

Dates: June 6-10
Daily Schedule: 9:00 am-4:30 pm
Tuition: $250 early registration; $275 after May 1, 2016

Summer Science Camps

For students entering 6-8th grade

Under the guidance of these experienced scientists and science educators, campers will work in the college science labs to engage in hands-on exploration of topics ranging from human anatomy to forensics to environmental science.

- **Mini-Med School I—June 6-10**
- **Crime Scene Investigation—June 13-17**
- **Mini-Med School II—June 20-24**
- **Environmental Science Camp—August 1-5**

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Camp Schedule: 8:30 am to noon.
Camp Tuition: $139 early registration discount; $159 after May 15, 2016.

Web: http://matsu.alaska.edu/summer-camps/
Email: summer@matsu.alaska.edu or Phone: 907-745-9775

"Bird on a Wire"

By Michael Kirby

My mother used to say "a bird told me so," in reference to some wisdom she had received and wished to impart to me. Likewise my grandmother, who, when I returned home, engaged me in conversation concerning something that was only privy to myself and some other party involved. No phone? No matter! Conversation wasn't limited to lines of communication by wire or the Net. That there can be another line, a personal one unfettered by technology and outside interference, or dependence, insinuates a more direct line, a spiritual conduit of information independent from control.

This is the "Indian way," or has been until very recently. The loss of the "buckskin telegraph" and its replacement by mechanisms of convenient corporate enterprise signals the demise of cultural traditions interwoven within the given of historical spiritual realities. As these ancient and innate human capacities give way to more complex methodologies, one independent from the interference of a normative spirituality, can the process be seen as dehumanizing? Does Native America, and the traditions it endeavors to maintain, represent the last bastion of "the way of the human being," and if so, is its historical resistance to change relevant to a humanity at the crossroads compromise?

Can anthropologists, as representatives of the dominant culture, one that is in effect antithetical to the premise of indigenous expressions of the "human condition," seek to protect and promote these cultures without compromising the scientific objectivity required of their discipline? If the spiritual reality of "the other" is contagious, do anthropologists then become carriers of the contagion, pollinators of an indigenous perspective of the "real world" as one of unity between the seen and unseen, the spiritual and the corporeal?

Does the "new world" of technology have anything at all in common with the natural world represented by indigenous peoples? And if that world is essentially spiritual in context, can anthropology in its objective curiosity convey the essence of indigenous reality without becoming adherents to its spiritual perspective? This may seem inverse to scientific rigor, but is in reality requisite in regard to indigenous culture, which still remains outside the limited domain of "scientific discovery." To comprehend its essence requires the subjectivity necessary to embrace it, to become in effect, indigenized, a convert, and in so doing, an expositor of "the middle ground," or as one Alaska Native elder put it, "the Yupi'ik Way." The uniformity of the indigenous world, regardless of its numerous dimensions, is essentially spiritual in its foundation and holistic in its expression. It posits mankind as a manifestation of the natural world, yet essentially spiritual in its consequences, as a mediator between the natural and the supernatural, as a progenitor of balanced perspectives.

Does "progress" through science come at the expense of humanity? Will "singularity" become the point of no return, and will there remain a way back from the brink if we lose the original pattern still found in some indigenous communities? The technological metric of convenience is insistent in its increasing demand that humanity relinquish individual control, as a matter of necessity, to that of the corporate consequence, to trust science and the hands that lever power, for our corporate interests, if not our collective conscience.

Can anthropologists serve as emissaries for the vanishing world, as knowledge-bearers of indigenous traditions, as articulators of the arcade, can they in effect become the very thing they hope to preserve, prosecutors on behalf of the persecuted, of vanishing tribal traditions everywhere? If the discipline is nothing more than observation and record, without response, it becomes in effect a tool in the hands of conquest, nothing more than a means to an end, mute testimony to the experience of scientific endeavor at the expense of indigenous spirituality and alternative reality.

Sharpe's Movie Review *continued from page 1*

9. Snatch (R): Sure, you might like Brad Pitt, you might hate him, or you might love him. But believe me when I say that you have never seen him like this. This movie is dark, funny, and a fun time.

8. Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (R): This movie is without a doubt one of the most criminally underrated movies ever. Robert Downey Jr. plays a thief pretending to be an actor preparing for a role by taking detective lessons from Val Kilmer's character who accidentally takes the two of them out to witness a murder. This movie is the definition of dark comedy and will have you scratching your head as to whether you should be laughing or not.

7. Airplane/The Naked Gun (PG/PG-13): Behold the glory that was Leslie Nielsen (RIP)! If you think that you are prepared for the amount of ridiculous humor in these two movies, you would be wrong.

6. A Royal Affair (R): I am a sucker for historical romances, especially when they are based on real life. This Oscar nominated Danish film is based on the real life affair between Queen Mathilde and the physician of the mentally ill King Christian VII, Johann Struensee. Their relationship saw the rise of enlightenment in a very conservative country before it all ended tragically. This movie is a must see for history buffs and romantic fanatics alike. ***(Warning: This is a Danish film which means that there will be subtitles/reading involved. Enjoy.)***

5. The Sound of Music/ Chicago/Moulin Rouge (G/ PG-13): I am a huge musical nerd, so me trying to decide which musical to recommend was like me trying to pick which of my dogs I like better. So here are 3 musicals that I think everyone should watch at least once. One is a classic, one is an award winner, and the other is the perfect movie for people who love weird movies and contemporary music and are not fans of overly operatic music or show tunes.

4. Pan's Labyrinth (R): Beware to those who do not like to read subtitles. If you refuse to read while watching a movie, you will be missing out on one of the most unique cinematic experiences in movie history. This is an adult fairy tale that centers around a young girl caught between 2 worlds; our world ***(which happens to be during the Spanish Civil War)***, and a world in which she is a lost princess. This movie is absolutely amazing and will yank at your heartstrings while making you smile at the same time.

3. Bringing Up Baby (PG): You really can't go wrong with a Cary Grant movie, especially when he is paired with Katharine Hepburn and a leopard named "Baby." If you want to get your kids into older movies, I would suggest you show your kids this movie.

2. Secondhand Lions (PG): This coming of age story starts off when a young man ***(Haley Joel Osment)*** is dropped off at his grumpy and anti-social Great-Uncles' (Michael Caine, Robert Duvall) house for the summer, in order to find out where they hid their fortune. What follows is a summer of adventure, corn, and lions. This movie is great for the whole family and I think that anyone and everyone will enjoy this movie.

1. Gladiator (R): Gladiator is my favorite movie of all time. It's a story of loss, betrayal, survival and vengeance. The music is beautiful and the acting is amazing. The story follows Maximus Decimus Meridius on his quest for vengeance and survival as he fights his way to the colosseum after the death of his family. If you have never seen this movie, you are definitely missing out.

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The Second King: Part Seven; Two of Two

By Brian Conaway

One Last Dream

Snow. Flecks indistinguishable from the stars that shone above until they touched his face, cold and searing hot all at once. Benn could see nothing except by turning, so he turned to look at a shimmering fissure in reality across from him. A man stood there, petrified, breathing but in gasps. How Benn knew him Benn could not say, but inexplicably he knew this man though in truth he was but an infant. Son of my son. Chebesk.

The instant he realized this, Benn became his grandson, his feet, his hands, his petrified body. And he heard without his ears, for he felt they were frozen beyond repair. Nevertheless he heard utterings of some grand scheme that was to come about in the near but far future. The words he could not make out, but there was no need, he watched it unfold. The mountain beneath racked violently, sealing away screams; scorched earth seeded swords; a faraway peak shouted cinders into a dismal sky.

Are these all the works of Sorcerion?

Like a soul being wrenched from its body, Benn was hurled into the sky where he watched red storm clouds blanket the distant realm of Organthia. Again, how he understood, he could never say, but as he watched Organthia disappear he discerned that this doom was nearer in the future than those others. He was watching the stars fall like sands in an hourglass. He should have felt disheartened, but something kept him.

Oh how very small we are, he realized. Even Sorcerion. And he fell.

Snow.

Against his conscious will, Benn awoke in his tent. The bed of grass was rough, but it was not the cause of these—he did not know what to call them anymore. Dreams? Nightmares? Must I be tormented every hour I am away from Elenyah?

"Father?" Jes was dressed for the occasion of their imminent arrival. Black satin tunic embroidered with white lacing and a brown belt with his blade at his right hip—for ceremony, the left meant true battle. Black hair was slicked back with care and not a hair of his beard was any longer than another. He certainly looked a prince as much as he had a warrior. "We will arrive at Natill by midnight. Word is ahead of our arrival. There will be some reception."

"A reception shall never again prove burdensome to me," Benn vowed, "not after my adventure."

"Do you regret it, father?"

"Some…I ought to have been here at the turn of leaf. What is the saying? 'At leaf-turn so to do hearts of noble lords.'"

"Aye father, more or less the proverb. Mother is forgiving. Lannaire and I are also."

"But not the world, my son. Not…" Sorcerion… "Not the world." Shall I ever forgive myself for having left them as I did?

"Aye father, but history can only be known after it is behind. Be assured we think no less of you. The Benevolent forbid that we should."

"Perhaps an office should be instated," Benn mused, aloud he realized only belatedly. "An Ambassador between kingdoms so that the king may govern his own affairs."

"A prudent decision, father. Most prudent." The Builen would approve.

The day trudged along presently as they made their way up the Ten Towns Road to the surrounding thoroughfares beyond the walls of the Seat. It was late night when they reached the Main Wall. "Make way for the king!"

The gates of Natill were drawn inward, and through them Benn was admitted for the first time in four months, an entire third of a Silvaren year. The stars above sparkled down at him, and the moon was a dimpled face that smiled from crater to crater. Natill was a star all its own that seemed to shine independently of the trillions of vainly competing cousins with radiance unrivaled.

It was midnight when he entered through the groaning doors and into the enormous crowd of people who laned each side of him for what seemed like miles. There were cheery welcomes, hearty welcomes, and every twentieth person was a lonely heckler that was quietly hushed. Not by the city guard, Benn was relieved to notice. He did not want to come home to untimely riots. In light of what Sorcerion had said they would be even more so.

He had entered from the north and ahead of him stood the inner gates of the City of Lights, the Red Ramparts, and at their eastern corner the second largest keep of the city: the Knights Keep. Tall walls secured this portion of the city and cradled his palace. He was escorted around the keep and through the markets (for the sake of ceremony) and came to the eastern walls, the largest and least flawed. He was seen through the actual gates into the Red Hill District. The Priests of the Benevolent from where they stood on the steps that led up to the Holy Hall held up their right hands in greeting. Their left hands held candles.

The palace came ever closer, and Benn stirred eagerly.

Continued on page 16

A Different View and Some Adventure

By Jessy Williams

On a fall night, in August 2002, I was working at a gas station in "Nowhere" Indiana, dreaming of getting more of life. All of a sudden a jeep pulls in with a surfboard just chilling on top of it (for all of the people that don't know this, there is no surfing in Indiana). Seeing this made me a little curious, so I struck up a conversation with the group of girls that were the occupants and found out they traveled the country for their job. I asked a few more details, asked where I could sign up and ended up leaving that night with them.

Most people would probably think leaving with strangers is foolish for a variety of reasons, but because of that one foolish choice I got to experience over seven years of numerous adventures. I've spent New Year's in Las Vegas and New Orleans. I've knocked on doors in New York where every other street they speak a different language. Met dirty philosophers, beautiful artists, irate teachers, and bored writers of all different colors and all were geniuses in their way. I've been shot at, maced, and attacked. Driven through trees in Oregon, fed Key deer walking around in the Florida Keys and got stuck in some California fires.

I wish more people would get out there and experience more of life. Go touch your toes in oceans you've never seen, and get stuck in a storm. Go find yourself, lose yourself just to find yourself again. First, here are a few guidelines: have some sort of responsible training in self-defense, listen to your natural instincts, and don't judge people by the way they look (if you must judge go by the brightness/dullness in their eyes).

Live life. Rumors say,
you only get one.

Pi Day *continued from page 1*

Hello Arctic Dragons,

We are so very happy to announce that we raised $450 for the Mat-Su Animal Shelter at our Pies for Paws event yesterday. My heart is bursting because of the overwhelming success of this event and none of it was possible without tremendous participation and contributions from you all. The math department can't say thank you enough for the way that the campus community pulled together yesterday to make this and all of our events a great success.

This academic year we have been able to make contributions to the Veteran's Center, the Mat-Su Food Bank, MyHouse, and now the animal shelter. We look forward to keeping these going as annual events so that we can continue to have a positive impact on these important groups in the community outside our walls.

The Math Department

An Open Letter to the House and Senate Finance Committee about University Funding

The Mat-Su Monitor as a whole stakes out no position on funding the University or on the value of contacting legislators. What follows is the argument of a single student who, nevertheless, presumably shares the concerns of many students.

Dear Members of the House and Senate Finance Committees:

I am a lifetime Alaska resident and one of your constituents; I am also enrolled in pre-Nursing at the University of Alaska, Mat-Su College branch.

If proposed cuts happen, it will impact my schooling and that of approximately 22,000 other students who are enrolled part or full time in programs that ensure Alaskans are educated for important jobs rather than exporting those jobs to people living elsewhere.

University of Alaska President Jim Johnsen stated cuts of that magnitude could result in the loss of 600-1000 faculty and staff positions, and countless programs that benefit students. The impacts of this at UAA would likely include:

- longer wait times at the University Center for form processing and test administration
- no academic advisors
- fewer student jobs across campus
- outsourcing and privatization of University services
- reduction and/or elimination of many academic programs

There will also be "closure of and loss of access to buildings."

It is my hope, along with countless many other Alaskans who have used the services of the University of Alaska to support their education and to improve their employability that you will work hard to keep the funding for the University of Alaska system in place at status-quo.

Sincerely, A Concerned Alaskan

Note: names and emails for those on the House and Senate University of Alaska Finance Subcommittees can be found online at http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Committee/Details/29?code=SUA (Senate) and http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Committee/Details/29?code=HUA (House). You can also find your area's legislator by entering your address in the "Who Represents Me" box at the bottom of http://akleg.gov/index.php

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A Visit with Kitty Underbakke

By Rachel Goodall

Kitty Underbakke is one of our many wonderful math tutors here at the Mat-Su College in the Elizabeth J. Fallon Learning Resource center. I recently interviewed her about her educational journey and hobbies.

Kitty is a graduate of the University of Alaska and has a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Math. Her favorite area of mathematics is Algebra. She was a math tutor at the Sylvan learning center along with Mat-Su College professor Ronna Williams prior to tutoring here.

Kitty is kind and helpful and visits with many students during the week. Throughout the day she goes from table to table helping each student with their math related problems.

In her spare time Kitty enjoys sciences such as astronomy, and crafts like quilting, knitting and other needle work, and reading her favorite author, James Patterson. She also enjoys making her own home improvements.

The students and staff are proud and thankful to have Kitty as part of the Mat-Su College team of tutors. She is helping all of us to become successful mathematicians.

Math With Ronna Williams: A Formula that Works

By Donna M. Hickle

Snow has fallen throughout the night. Students of Ronna Williams' math class get up early and shovel their driveways in the dark to get to their Saturday morning Intermediate Algebra class. For months, dedicated traditional and nontraditional students have been coming to learn with math with her Mat-Su College; braving even what high schools might call off school for—a typical Alaska snow day. Even on days like this, her classes are full. At registration, students often complain that they can't get into her full classes.

Today there is a math test. Students walk in the door looking bedraggled from the snowstorm but somehow, with all of their jobs, responsibilities, and cold cars not starting, they still find a way to make it to class. Who are these students who forego Friday night late night parties and why do they continue to fill up Mrs. Williams' remedial through Calculus math classes?

Why is her class superior to other math classes students have taken? The formula is not so simple. There is a lot of in-class math practice and there are continuous responses required of students throughout each of the lessons; this is time for students to work practice problems and get feedback. She also uses comedy to wake them up and keep them going.

Between sets of math concepts and problems, she introduces humor to cleanse the palate, like a fine restaurateur provides a raspberry sherbet in between courses of rich foods. Sometimes it just comes naturally, other jokes are pre-planned. Math cartoons appear on the Promethium screen—sometimes she has to explain the math joke, like the one about the 0 humiliating the figure 8 for being another zero with a belt. But there is never a dull moment. As she is humming right along her class follows in step to the rhythm of the math. And somehow, for most who try, it sticks.

Why do so many students take Mrs. Williams' math classes? How is it that so many students can relate to Mrs. Williams? I ask. Mrs. Williams smiles and cheerfully replies, "It's because I have a sense of humor; I struggled in math classes and the students can relate to the idea that we all struggle—those are the kinds of people who take my classes—those who struggle."

"You weren't good at math when you were young, were you," I ask.

"No. I only got to Algebra 2."

She advises those students who struggle the most with math to be tenacious and take it step by step--to set goals. "I let my students know about my experiences so they know I'm human, too. And I believe that it helps them struggle through to meet their goals."

Mrs. Williams' resume includes earning her a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, in 1996, a Bachelor's Education degree, and a State of Alaska Certification in Secondary Education, grades 7-12. She also has a Master's Degree from University of Alaska Southeast. Hired in 1998, she has been working for Matanuska-Susitna College/ UAA for almost 18 years. While employed with MSC, she also has been co-employed at other places teaching math, including experience working at Sylvan Learning Center from 2000-2007 and as a substitute teacher for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. "I substitute teach to provide a service to other really good math teachers that need my services."

I ask her what she attributes her education methods to. "My education program at UAA really prepared me well to teach students. I also use what I have learned from teaching at Sylvan, and substitute teaching has given me a lot of ideas. So, mainly I use a lot of my own experience over eighteen years."

Working with students is really where you shine. What are your thoughts on how you work with students? "There are certain rules that you are supposed to use no matter what you are teaching or who; get to know your students, respect your students, and communicate with each student regularly—I keep very open lines of communication. It's a matter of never looking down on them, ever. My feeling is that we're in this together—you

Continued on page 16

Math Cram Jam

The Math Department

invites students to study with faculty.

Saturdays

Apr 23

9:00 - 2:00 **In Snodgrass Hall**

Are you ready to start?

College is tough; let us help you figure it out. This spring, Mat-Su College is offering free College 101 information sessions to help explain things like college admission applications, financial aid, choosing a degree path and more.

Sessions will be offered at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from March through May. Parents and walk-ins are welcome as long as space is available.

Campus tours, academic advising, and career advising will also be available after each session.

Upcoming Sessions

March 10
March 24
April 7
April 21
May 12
May 26

Call today to reserve your seat!
745-9762

Mat-Su College

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Elizabeth J. Fallon Learning Resource Center*

OLB 121 745-9713 http://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/the-learning-center/tutoring/

WRITING	Mondays 10:30-12:00 & 1:00-5:00 Tuesdays & Thursday 9:00-4:00 Wednesdays 10:30-5:00
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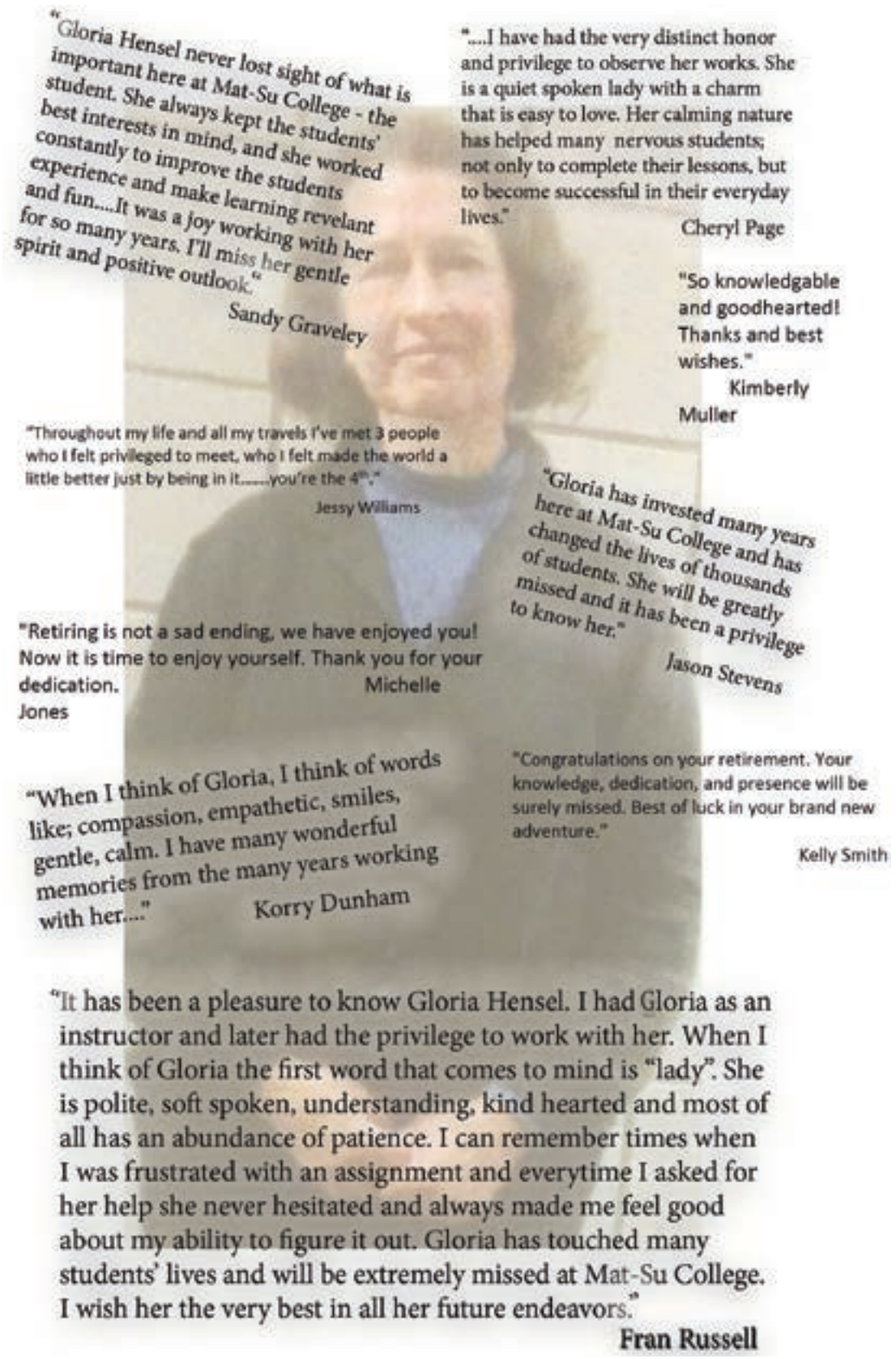

"Gloria Hensel never lost sight of what is important here at Mat-Su College - the student. She always kept the students' best interests in mind, and she worked constantly to improve the students experience and make learning revelant and fun....It was a joy working with her for so many years. I'll miss her gentle spirit and positive outlook."
Sandy Graveley

"....I have had the very distinct honor and privilege to observe her works. She is a quiet spoken lady with a charm that is easy to love. Her calming nature has helped many nervous students; not only to complete their lessons, but to become successful in their everyday lives."
Cheryl Page

"So knowledgable and goodhearted! Thanks and best wishes."
Kimberly Muller

"Throughout my life and all my travels I've met 3 people who I felt privileged to meet, who I felt made the world a little better just by being in it.....you're the 4th."
Jessy Williams

"Gloria has invested many years here at Mat-Su College and has changed the lives of thousands of students. She will be greatly missed and it has been a privilege to know her."
Jason Stevens

"Retiring is not a sad ending, we have enjoyed you! Now it is time to enjoy yourself. Thank you for your dedication.
Michelle Jones

"When I think of Gloria, I think of words like; compassion, empathetic, smiles, gentle, calm. I have many wonderful memories from the many years working with her...."
Korry Dunham

"Congratulations on your retirement. Your knowledge, dedication, and presence will be surely missed. Best of luck in your brand new adventure."
Kelly Smith

"It has been a pleasure to know Gloria Hensel. I had Gloria as an instructor and later had the privilege to work with her. When I think of Gloria the first word that comes to mind is "lady". She is polite, soft spoken, understanding, kind hearted and most of all has an abundance of patience. I can remember times when I was frustrated with an assignment and everytime I asked for her help she never hesitated and always made me feel good about my ability to figure it out. Gloria has touched many students' lives and will be extremely missed at Mat-Su College. I wish her the very best in all her future endeavors."
Fran Russell

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NFL Mock Draft: 2016 Edition

By Sam Ouellette

1. Tennessee Titans
Top needs: OL, DB, WR
Pick: Laremy Tunsil, OT Mississippi
The Titans have been shopping their first rounder but are asking a steep price. I don't see them moving the pick, instead they focus on protecting their franchise QB and 2015 2nd overall pick Marcus Mariota.

2. Cleveland Browns
Top needs: QB, WR, Pass Rusher
Pick: Carson Wentz, QB North Dakota St.
This pick is either Goff or Wentz. I could flip a coin to guess who new head coach Hue Jackson picks. I like Wentz better because of his performances at the Senior Bowl and Combine.

3. San Diego Chargers
Top needs: OL, S, DL
Pick: Jalen Ramsey, DB Florida
Losing Eric Weddle in free agency leaves a hole in the backfield. Wherever Ramsey plays he impacts the secondary with his speed and athleticism and fills that hole.

4. Dallas Cowboys
Top needs: RB, LB, WR
Pick: Joey Bosa, DE Ohio St.
The 'Boys need to address the D-line in this draft and Bosa is an ideal fit as a left end in coordinator Rod Marinnellis's defense.

5. Jacksonville Jaguars
Top needs: DB, Pass Rusher, OL
Pick: Myles Jack, LB UCLA
Adding Malik Jackson and Tashaun Gibson in free agency and Jack in the draft give the Jaguars a powerful defense and the talent to make a run at the playoffs.

6. Baltimore Ravens
Top needs: CB, Pass Rusher, OL
Pick: Ronnie Stanley, OT Notre Dame

Image from Mike Morbeck https://flic.kr/p/hMavjG

7. San Francisco 49ers
Top needs: QB, OL, ILB
Pick: Jared Goff, QB Cal

8. Philadelphia Eagles (Trade with Miami)
Top needs: QB, RB, OL
Pick: Ezekiel Elliott, RB Ohio St.

9. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Top needs: CB, OL, DE
Pick: Vernon Hargreaves, CB Florida

10. New York Giants
Top Needs: DB, WR, LB
Pick: Darron Lee, OLB Ohio St.

11. Chicago Bears
Top needs: OLB, CB, DE
Pick: Kevin Dodd, DE Clemson

12. New Orleans Saints
Top needs: DL, TE, LB
Pick: A'Shawn Robinson, DT Alabama

13. Miami Dolphins (Trade with Philadelphia Eagles)
Top needs: CB, RB, DE
Pick: Shaq Lawson, DE Clemson

14. Oakland Raiders
Top needs: DB, RB, LB
Pick: Mackensie Alexander, CB Clemson

15. Los Angeles Rams
Top needs: QB, WR, CB
Pick: Laquon Treadwell, WR Mississippi

16. Detroit Lions
Top needs: WR, OT, DT
Pick: Robert Nkemdiche, DT Mississippi

17. Atlanta Falcons
Top needs: Pass Rusher, S, TE
Pick: Leonard Floyd, OLB Georgia

18. Indianapolis Colts
Top needs: OL, DL, LB
Pick: Jack Conklin, OT Michigan St.

19. Buffalo Bills
Top needs: LB, OT, WR
Pick: Taylor Decker, OT Ohio St.

20. New York Jets
Top needs: QB, DT, ILB
Pick: Reggie Ragland, ILB Alabama

21. Washington Redskins
Top needs: DT, CB, OLB
Pick: Jarran Reed, DT Alabama

22. Houston Texans
Top needs: OL, WR, DE
Pick: Germain Ifedi, OT Texas A&M

23. Minnesota Vikings
Top needs: OL, WR, S
Pick: Josh Doctson, WR TCU

24. Cincinnati Bengals
Top needs: WR, LB, S
Pick: Will Fuller, WR Notre Dame

25. Pittsburgh Steelers
Top needs: CB, S, WR
Pick: Eli Apple, CB Ohio St.

26. Seattle Seahawks
Top needs: OL, DT, WR
Pick: Cody Whitehair, OG Kansas St.

27. Green Bay Packers
Top needs: ILB, TE, Pass Rusher
Pick: Andrew Billings, NT Baylor

28. Kansas City Chiefs
Top needs: CB, WR, LB
Pick: William Jackson III, CB Houston

29. New England Patriots
Lost pick due to deflate-gates

30. Arizona Cardinals
Top needs: OLB, CB, OL
Pick: Su'a Cravens, OLB Southern California

31. Carolina Panthers
Top needs: DE, OT, RB
Pick: Noah Spence, DE Eastern Kentucky

32. Denver Broncos
Top needs: QB, OL, DE
Pick: Paxton Lynch, QB Memphis

Alaska Food Facts

By Rachel Goodall, Alaska Natives Culture Club

At 656,425 square miles, Alaska is the largest state which is twice the size of Texas, and one fifth the size of the entire United States.

- There are nine groups of Alaska Native Peoples.
- Subsistence is still a part of the Alaska Native lifestyle. The new generation has been taught by Elders how to hunt, gather, prepare and preserve foods each season of the year. These traditions have been passed down as means of survival for Our People for thousands of years.
- Each Alaska Native group is taught to recognize signs in nature shows when each of these foods is ready to be harvested. For example in the spring when the ducks arrive the Bowhead Whale is on its yearly migratory path in the Arctic Ocean.
- Knowing how to prepare and preserve the traditional foods is carefully taught to one another.
- Preserving the foods has a lot to do with regular weather patterns. Global warming has affected the ice cellars used to store traditional foods are melting on the North Slope.
- Traditional diets were high in protein and low in carbs.
- Traditional food is now being consumed as medicinal remedies.
- The Alaska Native Knowledge Network has put together in a data base traditional foods for each group of Alaska Native peoples. A nutritional value for each food is listed.
- Fish among all nine groups has wide variety. All are eaten differently depending on what area of the State you are in. Fish is high in Omega 3s and protein.
- For example, the Tlingit use a smoker to preserve their fish, the Yupik dry theirs, the Inupiat may eat their eat fish frozen, and the Aleut also dry their fish. Storing and preserving food allows us to eat them through the winter months.

Mat-Su Monitor Green Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 4 cups leafy greens, e.g., baby kale (170 grams)
- 1 cup mixed berries (140 grams)
- 1-2 cups water

Directions:

- Blend in a blender and drink.

Nutrients per serving	Monitor Smoothie	Bolthouse Farms Green Goodness	Naked Juice Green Machine
Calories	120	130	170
Carbs	22g (6%)	30g (10%)	42g (14%)
Sugars	14g	26g	35g
Vitamin A	340%	20%	60%
Vitamin C	185%	35%	50%
Vitamin K	1080%	Not listed	Not listed
Iron	72%	6%	6%
Fiber	8g (32%)	1g (4%)	0%

Note: Monitor Smoothie made with Simple Truth Organic Power Greens and O Organics Mixed Berries.

The Break Time Café

By Lori Leahy

I had a chance to sit down with Erin Faes, the manager of the Break Time Café here at the college. With a welcoming disposition and smiling face, Erin told me all about the undertakings of the friendly little café. A seasoned manager, Erin took over the managing of the college cafeteria at the beginning of the fall semester. With the help of her mother, Barbra, who does most of the cooking, and her sister, Rhianna, who does most of the welcoming, they do an excellent job of providing not only a variety of tasty and affordable eats, but also a fun and friendly atmosphere for hungry students and faculty.

Erin and her family have a long history in the food industry. Erin has been in the restaurant business for 12 years and has worked as manager and general manager for Taco Bell restaurants in Arizona. Her brother owned The Break Time Café in Anchorage in the Frontier Building, and Mom, Barbra used to run the Home Depot Café in Wasilla. Erin says the food industry has always been a family affair, with everyone helping out, and that's the way they like it.

Originally from Arizona, the Faes family is large and close knit, boasting 11 kids and 42 grandkids, all living in the Palmer-Wasilla area. The family started migrating up here about 17 years ago beginning with the one of the older brothers who had come up with a girlfriend. He loved it and encouraged the rest of the family to follow, which they all eventually did. Erin moved here just last fall, having traveled back and forth to visit her family and work 4 times a year from Arizona. But on this particular trip she decided it was time to stay. When asked if she likes it here, she says she really does, and she's getting used to the weather, except for the wind.

The family hopes to stay here at the college, too. They feel like it is a lot of fun. They've just added espresso drinks to their menu and Erin feels that the coffee sales should help them move into the "stay" zone. Business has picked up since the first of the school year. "People seem to enjoy the food," Erin says.

When asked what the most popular items are, "Burgers" was her first answer (no surprise!) "They're made fresh every day. Bu people also really like the chicken strip baskets, the philly cheesteak subs, the French dip sandwiches, and the bbq beef sandwiches," she says (the French fries are not too bad, either, and make a meal with some chili and cheese thrown on top!) Salads are made each morning, and usually sell out, but Erin informed me that they can always make one up if those in the case are all gone.

Menu items are priced fairly with a hot dog or Polish dog and chips at $5.00 being one of the cheapest items on the menu and $7.75 being the most expensive items that they sell. For breakfast, which starts at 8:30 and runs until 10:30, the café has breakfast bowls, breakfast burritos, and yogurt parfaits, among other items. All the soups are made from scratch daily, usually by Barbra, the soup maker extraordinaire. Daily specials include grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, cheese quesadillas, clam chowder, and beef barley soup, as well as other delicious items. And check out their great selection of teas and chocolate cake.

So if you haven't had time to stop in and take a break at the "Break Time Café," it's time you did. The soup is always hot, the salads are fresh, the coffee's a brewin' and the girls are smilin'! The Breaktime Café is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

Mat-Su Monitor
April 2016

Heather's Top Eight Experiences to Have Before Graduation

In honor of all the 2016 graduates, this top eight list covers college experiences. This is not to say that if you don't get these things done, or do not want to do these things, that you haven't had a complete college experience. Instead, this can be taken as a list of ideas that you can use to enrich your college years overall.

1. **Study abroad**

   Studying abroad is easily the most expensive experience on this list, but it can also be one of the most rewarding. If you are interested in another culture, keep an eye out for one of the Study Abroad 101 sessions. They usually happen at least once a semester at either UAA campus or here at the Mat-Su College.

2. **Join a club**

   There are several clubs to choose from, depending on what you're interested in. If there isn't a club that fits the bill, don't be afraid to start one!

3. **Take a fun class**

   Many of us are in college for the sake of getting a specific degree, but it's good to break out of the box at least once and try a class that interests you, but which may not fit with your career path.

4. **Apply for an internship**

   Internships look great on future resumes, and also give you the real-world experience needed for your future career! However, if you don't land an internship during your college years, at explore your options and see what's out there. You might find an opportunity that you never knew existed!

5. **Befriend someone new**

   You know that kid that sits in the back of your class? You should try talking to him! Making new friends is a great way to network, as well as making study buddies.

6. **Explore every nook and cranny of campus**

   I can't tell you how many people I've talked to over my college life that haven't been anywhere else on campus except for their classrooms. This tip can benefit you especially when beginning a new semester; you'll already know where your classrooms are! There are plenty of resources and departments on campus that are there to be used by students.

7. **Discover your learning style**

   It's good to know how your mind works, so you're able to study effectively. Learning does not stop once you graduate, after all!

8. **Submit something to your college newspaper**

   Like the Mat-Su Monitor, for example. ;) New submissions are always welcome, and you can put it on your resume that you've had something published!

Congratulations to all of you graduating this year! Keep being awesome. ☺

Nailing the Interview

By K.B. Holbrook, Career Advisor

Spring semester is almost over and summer is almost here. You have had a whole semester of hard work and now it's time to take a break, from school anyhow. Most of our students will still be busy this summer working jobs in retail, tourism, and labor. Some may even be graduating and looking for full-time work. Whichever category you fall into, chances are you will be required to interview for any job you apply for. Nailing the interview can mean the difference getting hired or continuing the search. In this article I want to cover two key strategies to nailing the interview: being confident and doing your research.

When you interview for a job, a potential employer wants to hire someone that is competent and confident doing their job. Your resume and education may speak to your competency, but it is your verbal and non-verbal feedback in an interview that communicates your confidence. If you can't communicate confidence, you just might lose the job to someone that is on paper more qualified. If you don't believe me, go watch Amy Cuddy's Ted talks "Your body language shapes who you are". We all have different levels of self-confidence, but there are a couple of things everyone can do to improve your confidence for an interview. First is positive self-talk; remind yourself you are qualified, competent, and capable of learning anything. The employer called you in because they suspect you might be their next employee. Now seal the deal. The second thing you can do is monitor your body posture. Maintaining an open body posture in the waiting room and during the interview will communicate that you are confident and are comfortable. It will also help calm your nervousness. In addition, always use a firm handshake and appropriate eye contact with your interviewer(s), which will reinforce the message you are sending with your open posture.

The other important tip I have for nailing an interview is to research the employer. Between Google, Facebook, Linked-In, and an employer's web site, you can learn a lot about an organization. If you have an opportunity to stop by their business after doing your initial research, even better. Knowing what services an employer offers, what their mission is, who their clients are, and what kinds of positions they have beyond the one you have applied for goes a long way towards making sure you understand what kind of organization you are trying to join and how you will fit in. Then at the interview, when the employer asks you if you are familiar with their organization and if you have any questions, you will be able to impress them with a "yes" and follow up with *good* questions. This is a relatively small and easy thing to do, but it really resonates with employers, because it shows that you are serious and makes them feel like you are interested in them for more reasons than just a paycheck. Another added bonus of doing your research is that it should have made it easier to tailor your resume and write good cover letters.

These are two easy tips that anyone should be able to follow. There are of course more things, such as practice interviews, bringing a pad of paper for notes, etc., but those are really individualized to personal style. If you are someone who would like help beyond this article, you can always make an appointment for career advising by calling Student Services at 745-9762.

Emily Gelino-Bequette

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box in the FSM front lobby.

Q. Dear Sophia: Should I wait to tell women my real age until I know they are truly interested? I recently turned thirty, but am constantly told that I look twenty. Everytime I start to have a connection with a younger woman (in their early-to-mid 20s) they ask me my age. I believe in honesty, so I tell them the truth. Then the whole energy and mood of the conversation changes dramatcally. Do you have any advice? - Mr. Lonely.

A. Dear Lonely: Most relationships that begin with a lie about age end up with one person in prison. Don't do that. In your case, while I am tempted to say that there isn't much difference between 25 and 30, apparently those girls think that there is. That right there is proof enough that 25 and 30 are different. My advice, then, is to save your save your time and sign up for a dating site that caters to other "silvers."

Q. Dear Sophia: Q: I am having trouble with relationships. I want to study but all I can think about are the relationships I want to have with a relationship that is forbidden in my family. What should I do? - Miss Confused.

A. Dear Confused: Stop having feelings by pretending you are a cyborg. If that doesn't work, you won't know it until your original family has disowned you. Or disregard your family's stupid wishes. Watch 1967 non-Ashton Kutcher version of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. This is a touching movie about forbidden love, which includes this relevant monologue: "You listen to me. You say you don't want to tell me how to live my life. ... Let me tell you something. I owe you nothing! If you carried that bag a million miles, you did what you're supposed to do! Because you brought me into this world. And from that day you owed me everything you could ever do for me like I will owe my son if I ever have another. But you don't own me! You can't tell me when or where I'm out of line, or try to get me to live my life according to your rules."

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Second King *continued from page 6*

On the massive steps that led up to the palace stood Lannaire to greet him, his daughter-by-wedlock. Beside him, Jes's smile deepened. She was a beauty to match her husband, dark skinned and dark haired, dark eyed, and soft of soul. In her arms she held their son, the infant boy Chebesk, Second Prince of Silvara. When he finished kissing her brow he lay a palm on the sleeping child's. "Sleep tonight, and do not fear tomorrow." Not tomorrow at this turn of the moon, but rather the tomorrow when he stood upon that mountain.

"Lord Father," Lannaire kissed his cheek. "Her Ladyship awaits you. She has not slept."

"I would see her."

He waved to the dispersing people and climbed the palace steps, crossed the main hall and nearly jogged up the spiraling stairwell that wound around the castle proper, skipping two and three steps at a time. The glass ceiling of the throne room let in the midnight moonlight, and shone down on that marble chair that was his.

She sat in a plain wooden one at its feet, facing it, robed in white, hooded. She would cover her red eyes from him. He didn't care. He strode across reverently to the center of the floor, some feet from her. He knelt and bowed his head.

"My Lady I implore thy pardon. I acted in haste, but for a friend. I misplaced my duties. First to you and second to our son, and third to the kingdom we rule. I erred steeply."

"You came back. When you came to me in dreams you were burned, or cut, or…pieces. I must know you are real. Touch my hand." He came forward and knelt beside her. His own trembling match held hers. That was the same moment he looked into her eyes. They were red and blue all at once, tired and yet dignified, fearless and afraid. Gold bangs curtained them. They were a sight so beautiful that he never wanted to see them as they were now while he lived. He could not bear it. He lay his head in her hands. "Benne," Elenyah sighed, "I should never have doubted you would come back."

"I should not have left."

"You did rightly, do not misbelieve. You did right, Benne. These lords are naught but undisciplined children. They could never have been as brave as you were, as you are. Won't you believe me?"

"I will try. So help me, I will."

"Guilt pains you as grief did pain me," Elenyah continued. "We must be better than that, Benne. We must."

But we're not. She realized it to, and their thoughts were one. An occasion both infrequent and precious between married hearts.

"There is naught to be done for yesterday," Benn said, "but tomorrow can be faced with resolve."

"We should rest." Would that I could. There is no rest for the crowned.

"Will you dance with me?" He asked suddenly, as though his life depended on it. She could hear the fear on his lips. Her eyes said as much. Regardless, Elenyah smiled.

"Always, Bennevon."

HERE IS CONCLUDED THE SECOND KING

Ronna Williams *continued from 8*

need to get through it; I need to get you through it; so we're in this together."

Next I ask her how she uses Blackboard for her classes. "I use it for communication. It's a two-way road. I'm reaching out all the time and they can reach back by using Blackboard. I post announcements about 'Cram-Jams,' math study groups, vocabulary exercises, tests, and give online quizzes. I also post Power- Point presentations-which are our class notes."

Mrs. Williams' math classes is an experience that math students of all levels continue to fill up; starting with remedial Math 054 through calculus. When asked, "So, what did you do this week?," she answered, "I spent the weekend building eight new tests for my classes."

If a student is really frustrated with a problem at home, how can she help them? "They take a photo of the problem and text it to me. I find the error(s) in the problem, write them a note, take a picture, and send it back."

What is her philosophy regarding how students should improve and make less mistakes? Ronna Williams suggests, "You want to use less steps, but still be legal in math—that's the trick."

Mrs. Williams believes that many people find math to be a challenging part of their educations. "Everybody can do math; it just might not be your moment. For example, someone might be overwhelmed and it's not their time. As a teacher, I might repeat a concept 15 times, and one day, one student will look up as if the lights went on and say, 'I've never heard that before.' For them, it's the first time, and now they've learned that particular mathematics concept."

What is your pet peeve—what could students do better? "There are a handful of people who miss class—use every excuse; it seems like the majority of excuses come from a handful of people—and it seems like if it weren't for bad luck they truly wouldn't have any luck at all. They usually end up dropping my class."

Mrs. Williams exudes enjoyment of her job as an adjunct: making mathematics seem so much easier to students. But why did she choose to teach math? "As an adjunct instructor, it's very emotionally satisfying, and it does carry status. It's also a great experience. If I tell someone I teach at the college, they don't care that I'm an adjunct, they are interested that I'm teaching at the college; and they're very impressed. You don't hear a lot of people say they love math; and the minute I tell them I teach math at the college, I get to hear their past experiences with math. It's like a conversation when a doctor reveals their profession in public, people typically respond the same way."

Mrs. Williams plays several different instruments including the viola, tuba and is learning to play piano. She participates in the Mat-Su Concert Band and Matanuska-Susitna Orchestra. People often say math and music have a neurologic connection and it has been said that those who are good at playing music are better at mathematics. Does she see any connection between the two subjects? "I think there are two types of musicians. Math people count every beat and they are accurate in following the music as it is laid out on the sheet music. It doesn't seem as emotional or like there is as much interpretation going on. Other people perform music on an emotional level and generally have a more interpretive style."

So how do Mrs. Williams' outside interests relate to mathematics? "I have a grandson. He's cute and adorable. He's four and his favorite television is Team Umizoomi. It's a math show with math facts for preschoolers. We have discussions often about math and he's into counting and adding by memory. The other day, my grandson and I had a discussion about a shape. He insisted it was a circle and I explained that it was an oval."

What does Mrs. Williams think of teenagers? "I like teenagers. They're fun. You can say things to them you can't say to little kids. And they generally like me. What does she think of college students? "I like them, too. They have much bigger goals and I enjoy being part of that step in their lives." For many students, Mrs. Williams' math classes are a formula that works.

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The Missing Linkle: Hyrule Warriors Legends Review

By: Dr. Wily

Release Date: 3/25/16

Platform: (New) Nintendo 3DS

Since Nintendo took the video game world by storm in the 1980's, it has introduced a multitude of video games that has enraptured the minds and hearts of gamers everywhere. The Legend of Zelda is one such series, and this time it has been married to the popular Japanese fighting series Dynasty Warriors. In Dynasty Warriors, you take control of a team of characters and cut down massive waves of enemies as you take control of the battlefield and eventually square off against the final boss. This is much more fun than it sounds, and Dynasty Warriors has become a huge hit in Japan just like Zelda. It made perfect sense then, that the two games would eventually meet in the middle due to their massive popularity in Japan. Here in America, Zelda is also very popular, and while Dynasty Warriors isn't that well known, gamers and fans of both series will definitely be interested in the latter when they play Hyrule Warriors: Legends.

This game is not the original game. Instead, it is the enhanced handheld version created specifically for the Nintendo 3DS system. The 3DS version builds upon the frantic fun of the Wii U original release, but it also adds more to the table. For example, in the 3DS version, there are new modes and mechanics not present in the original, such as switching between three fighters in battle, or travelling around the map using statues and a musical instrument. New characters also enter the battle, including fan favorites Skull Kid and Tetra. The stages are the same, and you still do the same thing you would in the console version. In fact, you can transfer the new characters to your Wii U copy if you want but you have to buy Legends for the code.

I had a lot of fun with this game. It's an original take on the Zelda universe but with a Dynasty Warriors spin. No

longer was Zelda the damsel in distress. Here, she skates across the land, stabbing monsters with her rapier and dancing gracefully around enemies. It's times like this when I can't help but wonder why Zelda can't fight like this in her own games. As a matter of fact, characters usually marked as unwilling or afraid to fight get a major attitude adjustment. Tingle is reviled for his annoying voice and immature tendencies in the original Zelda, but here he can drop bombs and clear out entire keeps in a few seconds. Agitha from Twilight Princess is a happy bug collector, but here she can use giant insects to crush her foes and defend her allies.

Linkle is my favorite character and is an exciting new addition to the roster.

Characters get a much deserved makeover, being given costumes straight out of Dynasty Warriors while still managing to keep their iconic looks. Link for example keeps his green tunic and armor, but dons a long blue scarf and even more armor around his body. Zelda herself gets armor on that regal dress of hers, but she still looks like herself and it makes everything look new without feeling too alien. This applies to all characters, which get updated looks. Speaking of characters, five new ones join the fight exclusively in the 3DS version and can be transferred to the Wii U version free of charge. Skull Kid, Toon Link, Tetra, King Daphnes, and Linkle join the fight and have been a blast to play as.

Most Zelda fans will know some of the new characters added in the 3DS game, but my personal favorite character was Linkle, a female crossbow wielding chicken farmer who looks an awful lot like main hero Link. Despite some similarities in name and color scheme, the two play very differently from each other, and I found it hard to believe that this was just Link with bows. Linkle has her own epic story in this version of the game and was a major draw for me to buy it. I just loved her entire character. And it's not like she's a clone or anything either. While Link slashes at his foes with a sword, Linkle blasts foes with trick shots that make Clint Eastwood look like Yosemite Sam. She dances and twirls through entire crowds and is a fantastic officer to have in your squad. She's also cheery but has no sense of direction, which is hilarious when she expertly handles her crossbows and reads her map only to skip off in the wrong direction.

All the content from the original Wii U release is here. Giant Bosses, all the characters, costumes, and weapons. All DLC and hidden items are now locked inside Adventure Mode, which is basically a bunch of different game types using overworld maps from different Zelda games. You play certain challenges using either your own character or one they set for you. Most paths are locked until you finish story mode, so maybe go and play that mode first. The 3DS version also includes My Fairy, a special mode in which you can use any fairies you find in battle. Fairies are super cool and can be customized in different ways. They can use skills ranging from temporary invincibility to an extra shot of life when your officer falls in battle. Fairies can be renamed and given different clothes to wear, as well as food to help them grow. Food and clothes boosts their stats and helps them help you by increasing the duration of their abilities. You can even stack abilities to make one stronger! Level them up to 100 for the best possible rewards.

While Hyrule Warriors Legends is a great game for both Zelda and Warriors fans, it is still a port and this means it had to be downscaled from the bigger Wii U version. There are some graphical hiccups and framerate issues but to be honest this is the 3DS and to get this amount of content packed into one tiny little card? It does run slower and cannot be viewed in 3D on the older systems, so if you have a New 3DS I recommend using that instead. Besides the obvious though, there are no glaring issues with Hyrule Warriors Legends. It's exactly what it says it is and doesn't try to be anything else. If you've played the Wii U version and are satisfied, go ahead and keep it. But if you want a portable, on the go experience with new warriors (like Linkle!) and features on top of the original release with more support on the way, get this. There are some framerate issues on the original 3DS consoles, but if you have a New 3DS and love Zelda, this is for you.

Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

MSC Paramedic Association

Paramedic students plan and organize various safety and health activities for the campus and community, including CPR classes. For more information contact: Dan Wallace 746-9329

Graphic art by Jessy Williams

EARTH DAY 2016

Celebrate Earth Day this year by collaborating with the Mat-Su Carbon Crew.

On Friday April 22nd, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, you can help pick up litter along a two mile stretch of trunk road near the entrance to Mat-Su College. The college's award-winning environmental action club, Mat-Su Carbon Crew, has been authorized by the Adopt-a-Highway program and the Alaska D.O.T. to care for a portion of Trunk Road. This Earth Day, there will be a community crew picking up on both sides of the road from the roundabout near the Parks Highway to one mile past College Drive going north.

Interested volunteers may park in the college parking lot and sign-in at the main lobby to pick up provided safety gear and instructions. Show your community support and help make a difference!

For more information contact Jack Rogers (232-9039) or David Johnson (232-4765). Find them on Facebook or send an email to matsucarboncrew@live.com

Student Government Council Scoop

By Philip Jean

The purpose of this is to inform the students of Matanuska-Susitna College (Mat-Su College) what is being discussed in Student Government Council (SGC) meetings, and to inform the Student Body of what their SGC is doing for them. Here is the scoop.

• The Council passed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017.

• The Renewable Energy Committee was approved to build a lean-to over the summer. This will help renewable energy students get hands-on training in the installation of solar panels and related tasks within the renewable energy field.

GAMERS

Mondays 11:30-3:00 OLB
Tuesday 11:00-1:00 214

HUMAN SERVICES CLUB

EVERY FRIDAY

11:30 - 12:30

SGH 124

UAA Invites Accounting students to join their

Accounting Club

http://www.accountingclub.com

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:50 - 12:50 FSM 105

Mat-Su Monitor

Mondays & Thursdays
12:00-12:50
OLB 214

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Do you want to Learn to Dance?

The Dance Club suggests:
(if you cannot make it to our Wednesdays sessions at 1:30)

-Edy's has Friday Line Dancing
-Out door swing dancing will start during this Summer: to be announced (dates, time, and place is processing)

Alaska Native Culture Club Mat-Su College

We meet **every Monday** 11:50am to 12:50pm
FSM 200 *(Art Gallery upstairs)*
STUDENT CLUB CALENDER on the Mat-Su website: http://matsu.alaska.eduOr e-mail us at: : MatSuANCC@gmail.com

MAT-SU CARBON CREW

Mondays 1:00-2:00
FSM 105

PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Game Designers

Thursday
4:00-5:00
JKB 108

SMOKERS SUPPORT GROUP

NO PUFFIN

TUESDAYS
12 - 1:00
ROOM 214
IN THE
LIBRARY

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OPPORTUNITIES start HERE
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